



## Preventing Diversion of Infectious Biomedical Waste in Recently Liberated Areas of Iraq

### Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs.
- ◆ Unit: Disease Control and Prevention

### OBJECTIVES

This project aims to enhance facilities biosecurity in recently liberated areas of Iraq by building capacities in infectious biomedical waste management and laboratory best practices. Hence, contribute to build essential capacities for biological threat reduction,

### REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Iraq with focus on newly liberated areas from Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) such as Ninewa, Anbar, and Mosul.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD started working on the capacity of Iraq MOH on biomedical waste containment with focus on newly liberated areas. The workforce capacity building is focusing on targeted training of Iraqi laboratories staff on treating, securing, and safely disposing biomedical waste which is an important component to mitigate risks of misusing the waste into Biological Weapons (BW). The capacity building efforts is guided by the needs assessment that was conducted at the targeted facilities measuring their existing capacities and practices. The assessment findings also informed training development on infectious waste management and best laboratory practices. The assessment findings also assisted in identifying and supplying the laboratories with necessary risk mitigation materials that were provided through limited procurement. The trained participants will be supported to sustain knowledge and experience sharing on infectious waste management issues through communication using epishares.net. Additionally, trainees will be supported to promote awareness and develop handouts on best laboratory practices for their laboratory reference and use.

### BENEFICIARIES

The project beneficiaries will be health and laboratory staff of Iraq Ministry of health with focus on staff working at liberated areas.

### PROJECT PHASES

This project is carried out over a period of one year as follows:

Phase I – Assessment: Assess the existing biomedical waste management capacities and practices at eight facilities

Phase II – Capacity Building: Develop training curriculum, provide biomedical management items, conduct five-day biomedical waste management training, and provide follow up support for Iraqi participants

Phase III – Documentation: Meeting minutes, training materials, curriculum and report, assessment report.



Global Health  
Development

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>04/01/2020 – 03/31/2021</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>U.S. Department of State (DOS) Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction's (ISN/CTR) Global Threat Reduction Programs, including the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP) Biosecurity Engagement Program</b>
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Iraq Ministry of Health, Medical laboratory facilities in newly liberated areas in Iraq</b>

## Current statuses...

The untreated and readily accessible biomedical waste pose a risk of diverting the infectious biomedical waste and exploit these materials as raw Biological Weapons (BW) materials.

In Iraq, it was revealed by 90% of the respondents from medical and educational laboratories in Iraq universities and research centers, that they do not have biomedical waste management and treatment program in place for biomedical waste of solid, liquid and gaseous formulations<sup>1</sup>. Addressing this gap and building national capacities will reduce the biological threat and mitigate risks of access and misuse by nefarious actors.

## What is next...

GHD|EMPHNET in collaboration with the Iraq Ministry of Health (MOH) will enhance biosecurity of selected laboratory facilities with focus on those from liberated areas from ISIS.

The assessment will support identifying the knowledge and skills needed by staff as well as the gaps at facilities to enhance applying biosecurity practices. The capacity building activities and limited scale procurement will result in promoting the practices of staff in safely disposing biomedical waste, waste management and laboratory best practices. Thus, mitigate biological weapons related risks in Iraq.

**GHD|EMPHNET Information:** Global Health Development (GHD) and Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) works at achieving its mission by responding to public health needs with deliberate efforts that allow for health promotion and disease prevention.

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